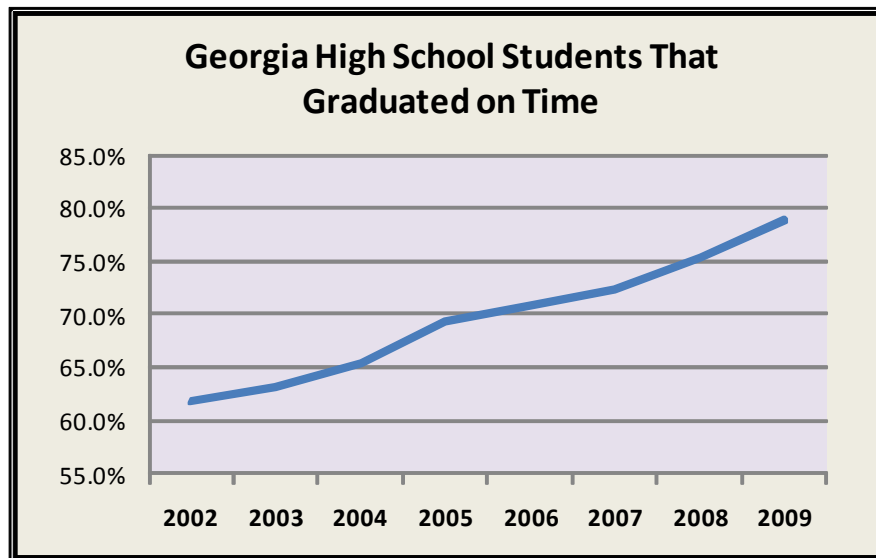




EDUCATED

- IMPROVE School Performance

GOCF outcome indicator: graduation rate
– for high school students



Data Source: The Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count Data Center, 2009.

Georgia's high school graduation rate has steadily increased over the past seven years. Graduation rate is calculated using the Leaver Rate, which is used by over 30 other states to calculate high school graduation rate. Increasing the high school graduation rate is emphasized among many states including Georgia because holding a high school diploma affords young people many of the skills they will need to be successful in jobs, thus increasing their earning potential. In 2007, the median earnings of young adults with a bachelor's degree were \$45,000; earnings were \$35,000 for those with an associate's degree, \$29,000 for high school graduates, and \$23,000 for those who did not earn a high school diploma or equivalent certificate.

- In 2007, young adults ages 25–34 with a bachelor's degree earned 29 percent more than young adults with an associate's degree and 55 percent more than young adult high school completers.
- Students may be motivated to graduate from high school because it can be an initial step towards a college degree. The following are possible strategies to help schools support college aspirations:
 - 1) Offer courses that prepare students for college-level work
 - 2) Assess how prepared students are for college
 - 3) Surround students with adults and peers who support their college aspirations
 - 4) Engage students in critical thinking
 - 5) Increase families' financial awareness

Data Sources: Governor's Office of Student achievement, 2008. National Center for Education Statistics, 2010. "Helping Students Navigate the Path to College: What High Schools Can Do." US Department of Education, National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance Institute of Education Sciences, 2009.